

Dena Light uses her background in environmental science, community development and art to create experiential public art. The Current Collections project was inspired by a trip to the Indonesian Archipelagos where Dena found herself snorkeling under a blanket of trash. Dena conceived of a large public sculpture that provides viewers the experience of being within underwater current patterns where discarded trash accumulates in the ocean. Dena believes addressing social issues with engaging sculptural experiences can increase viewer awareness of the issue, stimulate behavioral changes and inspire positive civic actions within a broad public audience.

Dena's public art experiences are bolstered by research that shows when programs actively engage people the learners develop a greater interest and a stronger willingness to commit to action. Multi-level experiences that engage community members and key stakeholders in the creation of public art provides direct experiences that draw personal connections between everyday items, like recycled and reclaimed plastics, and allow the relevance of those items to be revalued. The interior of the *Current Collections* sculpture is a visual reflection of the impact that thousands of individual actions can make when working towards a common goal. In this case, litter prevention for a healthy aquatic system.